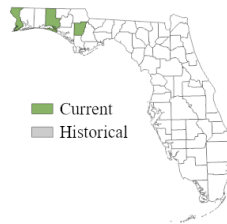


SOUTHERN SNAKETAIL

Ophiogomphus australis

Order: Odonata
Family: Gomphidae
FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: Medium-sized dragonfly (1.8 in., 45 mm) with blue-gray eyes, a greenish-yellow face, and yellow-green thorax with two lateral black stripes. Abdomen ochre-colored dorsally, black on the sides, and with white markings below. Legs bicolored: femur brown, tibia and tarsus black. Wings with black venation and a black stigma near the wing tips.

Similar Species: Eastern ringtail (*Erpetogomphus designatus*) is larger (49-55 mm), has black markings on the abdomen that do not extend full length of each segment, yellow-green femurs, and amber-colored spots at the bases of the wings. Other dragonflies, especially clubtails, may appear similar.

Habitat: Gravel-bottomed streams.

Seasonal Occurrence: Spring and early summer. Phenology based on *O. incurvatus*.

Florida Distribution: In Florida, this species is only known from five sites in the panhandle from Calhoun County westward. Southern Snaketail has been found in the Perdido River and Escambia River watersheds in Escambia County, Alaqu Creek in Walton County, and Hollis Branch near the Chipola River in Calhoun County.

Range-wide Distribution: Northern Mississippi, northern Alabama, eastern Louisiana, western Florida, and southwest Georgia.

Conservation Status: Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Florida. This species is at risk from declining water quality and habitat loss from hydrologic changes.

Protection and Management: Minimize sedimentation along creeks. Restore

Southern Snaketail

Ophiogomphus australis

natural hydrology to rivers and streams.

References: Dunkle 2000



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